

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWS MEDIA

Regarding Access and Coverage of Manufactured and Affordable Housing Strategy Committee (MAHSC) Meetings

The MAHSC is an advisory committee formed by Pima County Planning as directed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors to discuss, negotiate and recommend policies, practices and regulations in regards to manufactured and affordable housing in Pima County.

Discretion is necessary when covering a group such as this. Negotiations of a strategy committee involve education, deliberation and accommodation.

Participants are encouraged to think broadly and take some risks in order to help the group overall realize the best possible solution. Members may change their positions on particular issues during the course of negotiations. Within their roles as members of the strategy committee, the members also are expected to represent the interests of their organizations and may be unable to comment for the record without consulting their constituents or supervisors.

Meetings of the Manufactured and Affordable Housing Strategy Committee are open to the public, and the news media are encouraged to comply with the following restrictions:

- All members of the public and the news media, and other interested observers, should register with the meeting facilitator.
- Members of the public and news media are not allowed to participate in the meeting of the MAHSC when it is under way, except as provided in the agenda. The Strategy Committee will allow at least one opportunity for observers to speak during each meeting.
- Members of the public or the news media may interview or discuss any issue with members, alternates or agency staff before or after formal sessions, or during breaks.
- MAHSC members and alternates are not restricted in the comments they make to the public or the news media for publication, but they are urged to refrain from criticizing the Strategy Committee or the ongoing collaborative process, or from making statements that would undermine trust among the members.
- Facilitators, members, alternates and agency staff do not have authority to speak on behalf of the MAHSC unless specifically delegated that responsibility by the Strategy Committee.

Approved by MAHSC on December 12, 2007.